

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., a member of the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, announced today that the State of Illinois has received \$1,897,924 in emergency funds for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The money is available for low-income Illinois residents to pay their heating bills this winter.

"I am very glad that my Subcommittee has made this money available to low-income families. In these winter months, Illinois families should not have to suffer in the cold because they cannot afford the cost of heating their homes. LIHEAP has made a tremendous impact in the lives of millions of people across the country, and I am pleased to continue that effort this winter," Jackson said.

"In the Bible, Jesus states, 'inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' With this in mind, we must always work to provide for those that have the least in our country. In a society that has been so blessed with such tremendous wealth, we can always do more to help the many who have been left behind. I am proud to take a step in that direction today with the dispersal of these LIHEAP funds," Jackson concluded.

Each year, LIHEAP helps more than 4.5 million low-income families across America pay the cost of heating their homes in winter, and cooling them in the summer.

Individuals interested in applying for LIHEAP assistance should contact their local or state LIHEAP agency. To find the agency contact information, Illinois residents can go to www.acf.dhs.gov/programs/liheap/directory.htm or contact their Congressman.